



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*Celebrating 26 Years of Advocacy & Achievement*

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March 9, 2011

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Patricia Curry, Chair

**RE: PREVENTION INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (PIDP)**

We are writing to request that the funding and outcome evaluations for the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) contracts be reviewed and that the funding be restored to the original first year commitment of \$5 million. In addition, we request that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) develop a plan that would build on the success of PIDP and the positive outcomes achieved for children and their families. The plan should include working with the PIDP providers to integrate their work with the work being done by other County departments and should identify funds for expansion of PIDP in future years.

In recent months, there has been a significant focus on child safety and the work done by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Emergency Response (ER) workers. The significant backlog of cases in ER has required resources throughout DCFS to be redeployed to the front end, taking workers from other vital services in the Department. The outcomes for PIDP show a significant drop in those families "re-referred" to DCFS who have received PIDP services. The PIDP evaluation also shows that children and families receiving services experienced more "permanency exits" than those without PIDP services. It seems prudent, at this time, to expand this program which shows positive outcomes for families, reduces caseloads by increasing permanency, and alleviates the burden on the front end ER by reducing re-entry rates. While the evaluation report did not contain a complete fiscal analysis, it is believed that these positive outcomes will yield a savings to the County as well.

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It is imperative for the safety and success of the children and families of our County that we provide the best services possible and support programs with proven positive results rather than those programs that have poor results, or have not been evaluated. Without funding, these PIDP networks run the risk of being dismantled and we will lose the valuable assistance they provide.

Therefore, we respectfully request and recommend that your Honorable Board direct the following:

1. The Chief Executive Office (CEO) and DCFS restore the Title IV-E Funding cuts to PIDP for the current Fiscal Year.
2. The CEO develop a plan with the PIDP providers and County departments such as the Departments Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Public Social Services, and Community and Senior Services to work together and maximize services to benefit children and families throughout the County.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

PC:ma

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Acting Director, Department of Children and Family Services  
Director, Department of Health Services  
Director, Department of Mental Health  
Director, Department of Public Health,  
Director, Department of Public Social Services  
Director, Department of Community and Senior Services  
County Counsel  
Children's Deputies  
Health Deputies  
Mental Health Deputies

Recs to BOS Re PIDP \_Final